

Message Text

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ACTION SY-05

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O R 161400Z DEC 76
FM AMEMBASSY BRASILIA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9150
INFO AMCONSUL RIO DE JANEIRO
AMCONSUL SAO PAULO

C O N F I D E N T I A L BRASILIA 10277

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: AINF PFOR BR
SUBJECT: REPORTED RELEASE OF EMBASSY POLITICAL REPORTS

1. LONGSTANDING EMBASSY CONTACT IN RIO, JOSE MEGALHAES LINS, NEPHEW OF SENATE PRESIDENT MAGALHAES PINTO, TELEPHONED EMBASSY POLITICAL ASSISTANT DECEMBER 16 TO STATE HE HAD JUST BEEN INFORMED THAT JORNAL DO BRASIL CORRESPONDENT IN WASHINGTON HAD OBTAINED "STACKS" OF EMBASSY AIRGRAMS AND TELEGRAMS ON POLITICAL SITUATION DURING PERIOD 1967-1969. MAGALHAES LINS STATES HE RECEIVED THIS INFORMATION FROM JORNAL DO BRASIL EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT NASCIMENTO BRITO, WHO IS A PERSONAL FRIEND. HE ADDED THAT NASCIMENTO BRITO HAD TOLD HIM OF RECEIPT OF DOCUMENTS BECAUSE MAGALHAES LINS' NAME, ALONG WITH THESE OF OTHER PROMIENT BRAZILIANS, APPEARS IN ANUMBER OF THEM AS SOURCE OF INFORMATION. HE CONTINUED THAT NASCIMENTO BRITO HAD TOLD HIM JORNAL DO BRASIL WOULD BEGIN PUBLISHING SERIES OF STORIES BASED ON EMBASSY REPORTS BUT THAT HE INTENDED TO KEEP MAGALHAES LINS' NAME OUT OF IT, IF POSSIBLE. BUT NASCIMENTO BRITO HAD WARNED THAT ESTADO DE SAO PAULO AND WEEKLY NEWS MAGAZINE "VEJA" WERE ON TO STORY AND THAT IF THEY GOT HOLD OF THE DOCUMENTS THEY PROBABLY WOULD NOT BE SO CONSIDERATE.

2. SINCE MAGALHAES LINS IS NOT FAMILAR WITH OUR
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SYSTEM, IT IS HARD TO DETERMEINE FROM HIS TELEPHONE DESCRIPTION WHETHER DOCUMENTS IN QUESTION ARE AIRGRAMS, TELEGRAMS, AND MEMCONS OR MIX OF THE THREE. HE STATED THAT NASCIMENTO BRITO HAD GIVEN HIM XEROX COPY OF ONE SUCH DOCUMENT, SIGNED BY PHILIP RAINE AS CHARGE, AND WITH CLASSIFICATION OF LIMITED OFFICIAL USE, WHICH

APPEARS TO TELEGRAM. MAGALHAES LINS IS UNDERSTANDABLY CONCERNED ABOUT PROBABLE EMBARRASSMENT TO HIM IF SERIES OF RELEASED MESSAGES SHOW HIM TO BE FREQUENT AND CLOSE CONTACT OF AMERICAN EMBASSY POLITICAL OFFICERS. HE URGED THAT EMBASSY DO WHAT IT COULD TO HALT ANY FURTHER RELEASE OF POTENTIALLY EMBARRASSING DOCUMENTS.

3. EMBASSY WOULD APPRECIATE ANY INFORMATION DEPARTMENT MAY HAVE CONCERNING MANNER IN WHICH DOCUMENTS BECAME AVAILABLE TO JORNAL DO BRASIL. WE ALSO NEED URGENTLY DETAILS DEPARTMENT MAY BE ABLE TO GIVE AS TO PERIOD COVERED BY REPORTS, SUBJECTS DEALT WITH IN THEM, AND NAMES OF BRAZILIANS SOURCES CITED. FINALLY WE WOULD ALSO APPRECIATE DEPARTMENT'S SUGGESTIONS, BASED ON ANY KNOWLEDGE IT HAS ON MANNER OF RELEASE AND NATURE OF DOCUMENTS AS TO HOW TO HANDLE PRESS QUESTIONS ON THE SUBJECT.
CRIMMINS

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